

### REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claim 25 has been noted as allowed, and Claims 3, 5-11, 14, and 17-23 have been noted as allowable. Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In addition, Claim 24 has been objected to for an informality.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the notice of allowed and allowable subject matter. In response, Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, 23, and 24 have been amended, and Claim 2 has been canceled. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, applicants submit that the all claims are now in condition for allowance.

#### Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Again, applicants thank the Examiner for the notice of allowed Claim 25 and allowable Claims 3, 5-11, 14, and 17-23. The Office Action states that the allowable claims are objected to as depending from rejected parent claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, applicants have rewritten Claims 3, 5, 10, 14, 17, 21, and 23 in independent form.

#### Claim Objection Under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a)

Claim 24 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a) because the term "the plug" lacks proper antecedent basis. In response, applicants have provided proper antecedent basis.

#### Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,192,714, issued to Hickerson (hereinafter "Hickerson"). In addition, Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,489,373, issued to Parilla (hereinafter "Parilla"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
1420 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.682.8100

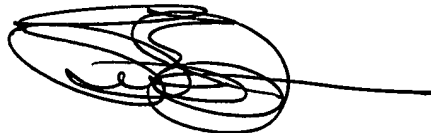
Anticipation requires the presence of each and every claim limitation in a single prior art reference. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 15, and 24 to recite allowable subject matter, specifically "a thrust diverter *slidably* disposed relative to the housing" in Claims 1 and 15 and "means for thrust-vectoring *slidably* disposed relative to the housing" in Claim 24. For this reason, Claims 1, 15, 24, and the claims depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>



Lee E. Johnson  
Registration No. 22,946  
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1701

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first-class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: 7/20/06 Carole Julian

LEJ/ECP:cj

LAW OFFICES OF  
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>  
1420 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2800  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
206.682.8100